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OVW Technical Assistance Program (CDFA 16.526)

Overview

About the Office on Violence Against Women

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice. Created in 1995, OVW implements the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership against domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Since its inception, OVW has launched a multifaceted approach to responding to these crimes. By forging state, local and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, the judiciary, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, and others, OVW grants help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives and enable communities to hold offenders accountable.

About the OVW Technical Assistance Program

Since 1995, OVW's Technical Assistance Program (TA Program) has provided OVW grantees with the training, expertise, and problem-solving strategies they need to meet the challenges of addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. OVW's technical assistance projects have offered educational opportunities, conferences, peer-to-peer consultations, site visits, and tailored assistance that has allowed OVW grantees and others to learn from experts and one another about how to effectively respond to crimes of violence against women.

In shaping its technical assistance program, OVW has actively solicited input from its grantees to ensure that efforts are responsive to the needs and concerns of local communities. As part of its commitment to continuous improvement, OVW seeks feedback on a regular basis from its grant recipients so that the technical assistance can be enhanced and refined as necessary to meet the needs of communities.

The primary purpose of the OVW TA Program is to provide direct assistance to grantees and subgrantees to enhance the success of local projects they are implementing with VAWA grant funds. In addition, OVW is focused on building the capacity of criminal justice and victim services organizations to respond effectively to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and to foster partnerships between organizations that have not traditionally worked together to address violence against women, such as faith- and community-based organizations.

Vision for OVW Technical Assistance

It is OVW's vision that technical assistance will be responsive to the needs of victims, as expressed through its grantees; adaptable to the inevitable changes in the field; and economical in its size and scope. In addition, OVW would like to utilize local and state experts in the delivery of technical assistance. Local communities across the nation have implemented successful programs addressing sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence and dating violence, and these communities have unique expertise and lessons to share.

by individuals receiving services must be voluntary. Programs funded by DOJ are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion.

Applicants are encouraged to review the Civil Rights Compliance section under "Additional Requirements" in this announcement.

OVW Technical Assistance Program – Specific Information

Focus of Technical Assistance Projects

Technical Assistance activities must be tied to purpose areas of OVW grant programs (see Appendix B), and OVW technical assistance must be provided predominantly to recipients of OVW grant programs. To learn more about OVW's grant programs, go to www.usdoj.gov/ovw/ and click on "OVW Funding Opportunities and Grant Information."

OVW Issue Areas

OVW is seeking concept papers that address one or more of the issue areas identified below. All concept papers must be tied to one or more of the purpose areas listed in Appendix B and must serve the grant recipients of one or more OVW grant programs, i.e. providing sexual assault training to rural law enforcement officers who are recipients under STOP Formula, Arrest and Rural programs. OVW is particularly interested in concept papers that will provide cross-program technical assistance.

In addition, if an applicant wishes to submit a concept paper that does not address one of these Interest Areas, they may do so, but they will be required to submit additional justification regarding the need for the project, how it relates to an OVW program purpose area (Appendix B) and the intended grantee audience.

Organizations may submit concept papers for multiple projects, however, they must submit separate and distinct papers for each project.

Issue Areas

- Basic training on sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and/or dating violence for law enforcement, prosecution, probation, court personnel and/or nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocates.
- Advanced training on sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and/or dating violence for law enforcement, prosecution, probation, court personnel and/or nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocates.
- Developing, improving, and / or maintaining delivery of culturally competent victim services, including services to underserved populations.
- Innovative approaches to utilizing a coordinated community response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Developing, training, or expanding specialized units (sexual assault / domestic violence / stalking) within law enforcement agencies and prosecutors offices.

- Training and technical assistance on how to include the faith community into the coordinated community response to sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence and dating violence, including educating faith leaders on basic domestic violence.
- Basic training on immigration issues for law enforcement, prosecution, and probation, including the dynamics of violence against immigrants; services available to immigrant victims; and the legal options for immigrant victims, such as self petitioning, U and T Visas.
- Skill development in program management such as strategic planning, meeting facilitation, developing and managing non-profit organizations, and grants management.

Availability of Funds

The ability of OVW to make awards under the FY 2007 Technical Assistance Program is contingent upon Congressional appropriation of funds for that purpose.

Award Period

The award period for these Cooperative Agreements will be either 12 or 24 months.

Award Amounts

Projects will receive up to \$400,000 for 24 months, although OVW reserves the right to make awards for lesser or greater amounts. When formulating your budget request, applicants should consider the number of grantees who will receive technical assistance as a result of the project. Applicants should be aware that awards will be made as Cooperative Agreements, and OVW will play a substantial role in shaping and monitoring the project.

How to Apply

DOJ is participating in the e-Government initiative, one of 25 initiatives included in the President's Management Agenda. Part of this initiative -- Grants.gov -- is a "one-stop storefront" that provides a unified process for all customers of federal grants to find funding opportunities and apply for funding.

Grants.gov Instructions: Complete instructions can be found in Appendix A. Please note that Grants.gov is not the Grants Management System (GMS) through which OVW applicants have submitted applications in previous years. If you experience difficulties at any point during this process, please call the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at **1-800-518-4726**.

In addition, applicants must send via overnight delivery a complete hard-copy original of the application, postmarked by July 20, 2006 to: OVW c/o Aspen Systems Corporation.

We strongly recommend that you use a trackable shipping method that will allow you to confirm the delivery of your concept paper. Applicants should retain proof of timely submission.

